

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 SMI-01 L-03 INT-05 DLOS-06

SAL-01 /033 W

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R 282120Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0306

UNCLAS BRASILIA 1571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN WHALE LEGISLATION

REF: (A) STATE 003632; (B) BRASILIA 0824

1. A BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL FROM THE SUPERINTENDENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING (SUDEPE) OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMALLY THAT HE DOES NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY FOR THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL BILLS WHICH PROPOSE TO BAN WHALING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS (REFTEL B) BEING APPROVED. HE STATED THAT WHENEVER A BILL ON THIS SUBJECT REACHES THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF ANY OF THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL HOUSES, SUDEPE IS REQUESTED TO GIVE ITS OPINION. SO FAR, HE SAID ITS VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONTRARY TO THE APPROVAL OF SUCH BILLS.

2. THAT SUDEPE OFFICIAL FURTHER STATED THAT CONGRESSIONAL LAWS DESIGNED TO BAN WHALING IN BRAZIL ARE UNNECESSARY BECAUSE SUDEPE HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO IT ITSELF, SHOULD IT DEEM SUCH ACTION DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO THAT OFFICIAL, HIS ORGANIZATION HAS BANNED THE FISHING OF SEVERAL SPECIES OF FISH IN BRAZILIAN WATERS IN THE PAST. HE NOTED THAT BEFORE TAKING SUCH ACTION, HOWEVER, SUDEPE USUALLY TAKES BIOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION, AND THAT NONE OF THESE FACTORS WOULD RECOMMEND THE BANNING OF WHALLING IN BRAZIL
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AT THE PRESENT TIME. SUDEPE IS REPORTEDLY OF THE OPINIONS THAT BRAZIL HAS HARVESTED VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHALES AS COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT IF BRAZIL DOES NOT CATCH THEM OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS TH SOVIET UNION AND JAPAN, CERTAINLY WILL.

3. THE FOREGOING COMMENTS BY A SUDEPE OFFICIAL PLUS THE

FACTS REPORTED IN REFTEL (B) SEEM TO STRENGTHEN THE
EMBASSY'S PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IMPRESSION THAT THE LIKE-
LIHOOD OF A LAW BY THE CONGRESS (WHERE THE GOVERNMENT
HAS MAJORITY) OR OF A GOVERNMENT ACTION ON THE SUBJECT
MATTER BEING ADOPTED WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS
VERY SMALL.
CRIMMINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL01571
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Drafter: n/a
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From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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